

Honorable John W. McCormack
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Speaker:

This letter transmits for the consideration of the Congress a proposed amendment to the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended. The proposed bill permits the Agency to improve its retirement program by authorizing the establishment of a retirement system corresponding to that of the Foreign Service. The Central Intelligence Agency needs to attract and retain a force of highly qualified careerists in spite of its inability in fact to provide full-term careers for many individual officers. In order to minimize the adverse effects of necessary programs of managed attrition and to preserve its ability to recruit and retain the high caliber personnel it needs, the Agency must make reasonable provision for the future of those individuals who must be separated before completing a full-term career of thirty or so years. Therefore, Section 3 of the proposed bill adds a new paragraph (g) to Section 5 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, authorizing the Director of Central Intelligence to exercise the authority available to the Secretary of State under Title VIII of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended, in order to establish for designated Agency employees a retirement and disability system corresponding to that available to Foreign Service Officers.

Since all provisions pertaining to the retirement of Foreign Service Officers are not contained in Title VIII of the Foreign Service Act and since it is possible that future amendments to such Act may occur elsewhere than in Title VIII, it is necessary to make general provision for the Director of Central Intelligence to adopt provisions of law applicable to Foreign Serv-

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ice Officers for Agency employees. Additionally, most of the basic travel allowances and overseas benefits available to Foreign Service personnel are authorized for Agency employees by existing Section 4 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended. However, amendments to the Foreign Service Act over the years have of necessity required the Agency to seek legislation periodically in order to keep such authorities up to date and uniform with those available to Foreign Service personnel. Consequently, it is now proposed that the existing Section 4 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act be rescinded by Section 2 of the proposed bill. In lieu of the rescinded authorities, the new Section 4 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act authorizes the Director to adopt and apply to Agency employees provisions of law applicable to Foreign Service personnel and to exercise with respect to Agency employees the authority available to the Secretary of State for the purpose of having Agency employees accorded appropriate benefits, rights, and allowances now authorized for Foreign Service Officers.

We consider enactment of the proposed bill to be essential to the effective performance of our mission and would appreciate early and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John A. McCone
Director